

The fundamental purpose of licensing amateur radio operators is twofold: First, to ensure that operators have enough knowledge to not injure themselves or the public; and Second, that operators have enough knowledge and skill to operate within the amateur community without causing harmful interference.

One criterion that is not germane is whether or not any particular licensing scheme is more convenient for the FCC to administer and regulate. Neither is the FCC bound to blindly follow what other countries have done.

Thus, to drop the Morse code requirement for operators to operate on the General Class and Extra Class bands in tele-phonic modes (AM, USB, LSB, FM, etc) is entirely appropriate, and perhaps long overdue.

However, by stark contrast, allowing any operator to operate in the CW mode bands, without having demonstrated any proficiency whatsoever in Morse code, seems to be an open invitation to total chaos on the CW mode portions of the High Frequency bands. Some minimum level of code proficiency is essential, in order to not create harmful interference when operating in the CW mode.

Testing requirements should always relate directly to the band and mode where operation is desired. Morse code testing (element one) should remain a requirement in order for otherwise licensed operators to operate in the lower frequency regions of each High Frequency band which have been designated exclusively for CW mode operation.